

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/658,292

Applicant(s)

TAGAWA, YOJIRO

Examiner

HUNG H. LAM

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the supplemental amendment filed 07/10/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7, 14 and 18 (the claims are renumbered as 1-3, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

/Lin Ye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The supplemental amendments, filed on 07/10/08, have been entered and made of record. Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-17 and 19-21 are canceled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see the remark, filed 07/10/08, with respect to the rejection of claims 7, 14 and 18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 7, 14 and 18 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7, 14 and 18 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding **claim 7**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest:

"an image processing apparatus comprising:

a recording apparatus comprising:

a first input unit that inputs camera information and picture taking information;

a first generator that generates a file from the camera information and picture taking information received from the first input unit;

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a recording device configured to store the file generated by the first generator;

an encryption encryption-and-compression device configured to encrypt the stored camera and picture taking information tagged attribute information described by the description device;

a maker note generator that generates encrypted maker note data including maker note tags of the encrypted camera and picture taking information;

a second input unit that inputs the camera information and the picture taking information;

a second generator that generates image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input from the second input unit and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generator;

a third input unit that inputs a compressed image data; a third generator that generates an image file from the compressed image data received from the third input unit and the image attribute data received from the second generator that generates the image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input from the second input unit and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generator; and

a device configured to store the image file generated by the third generator write the attribute information encrypted and compressed by the encryption-and-compression device into an arbitrary attribute area; and a playback device comprising:

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a separation device configured to separate image data and the image attribute data included in the stored image file;

a first extraction device configured to extract the encrypted maker note data from the separated image attribute data;

a decryption decompression-and-decryption device configured to decrypt the extracted, encrypted maker note data and compressed part of the attribute information separated by the separation means;

a style-sheet input device configured to input style sheet data;

a second art extraction device is configured to receive the input style sheet data and the decrypted maker note data and to extract display data from the decrypted maker note data to produce display data from the decrypted maker note data in accordance with a layout rule specified in the style sheet data selectively extract attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information; and

a display device configured to display the display data image and the selectively- extracted tagged attribute information".

Regarding **claim 14**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest:

"an image processing method comprising the steps of:

a recording operation comprising the steps of:

inputting camera information and picture taking information in a first instance;

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generating a file from the camera information and picture taking information received inputted in said inputting step;

storing the file generated in said generating step including an image area for storing image data and also including an attribute area for storing attribute information;

encrypting the stored camera information and picture taking information a generating encrypted maker note data including maker note tags of the encrypted camera and picture taking information;

inputting the camera information and the picture taking information in a second instance;

generating image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by said maker note generating step;

inputting compressed image data; generating an image file from the compressed image data input by the compressed-data inputting step and the image attribute data generated in the attribute-date generating step that generates the image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generating step; and

storing the image file generated in the image-file generating step writing the tagged attribute information encrypted and compressed in the encryption-and-compression step into an arbitrary attribute area; and

a playback operation comprising the steps of:

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separating image data and the image attribute data included in the stored image file;

extracting the encrypted maker note data from the separated image attribute data;

decrypting the extracted, encrypted maker note data and inputting style sheet data; extracting display data from the decrypted maker note data to produce display data from the decrypted maker note data in accordance with a layout rule specified in the inputted style sheet data selectively extracting attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information; and

displaying the display data image".

Regarding **claim 18**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest:

"a program, stored in a computer-readable storage medium, for causing a computer to execute a procedure comprising the steps of:

a recording operation comprising the steps of:

inputting camera information and picture taking information in a first instance;

generating a file from the camera information and picture taking information received inputted in said inputting step;

storing the file generated in said generating step including an image area for storing image data and also including an attribute area for storing attribute information;

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encrypting the stored camera information and picture taking information a

generating encrypted maker note data including maker note tags of the encrypted camera and picture taking information;

inputting the camera information and the picture taking information in a second instance;

generating image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by said maker note generating step;

inputting compressed image data; generating an image file from the compressed image data input by the compressed-data inputting step and the image attribute data generated in the attribute-date generating step that generates the image attribute data from the camera and picture taking information input in said second-instance inputting step and the encrypted maker note data generated by the maker note generating step; and

storing the image file generated in the image-file generating step; and a playback operation comprising the steps of:

separating image data and the image attribute data included in the stored image file;

extracting the encrypted maker note data from the separated image attribute data;

decrypting the extracted, encrypted maker note data and inputting style sheet data;

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extracting display data from the decrypted maker note data to produce display data from the decrypted maker note data in accordance with a layout rule specified in the inputted style sheet data selectively extracting attribute information by analyzing the tags of the decompressed and decrypted tagged attribute information; and

displaying the display data image”.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG H. LAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LIN YE can be reached on 571-272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HL
07/31/08

/Lin Ye/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2622